

Listing of the Claims

Claims 1 - 16 (canceled).

1 Claim 17 (currently amended) A container for the transport of nuclear fuel assemblies,
2 said container comprising:

3 a plurality of compartments, each compartment adapted for receiving a long length nuclear
4 fuel assembly and, transport device for housing a long length nuclear fuel assembly, said device
5 comprising: a compartment having substantially the same length as the fuel assembly, said
6 compartment having fixed walls extending in a longitudinal direction and defining an interior space
7 of the compartment, and having an opening at a distal end of the compartment in said longitudinal
8 direction--[[;]] wherein each compartment includes one or more immobilization devices, each
9 immobilization device having:

10 a fixed structure rigidly attached to one of said fixed walls of the compartment,
11 and comprising at least one fixed guide element extending in a ~~transverse~~ direction
12 transverse to the longitudinal direction of the compartment;

13 a mobile structure that can be moved in the transverse direction to apply pressure
14 on the fuel assembly, the mobile structure comprising at least one transverse mobile guide
15 element slidably engaging the fixed guide element on the fixed structure,

16 an adjustable clamping device adapted to clamp the fuel assembly in a fixed
17 position within the compartment and to selectively release said fuel assembly, said
18 clamping device comprising:

19 a pneumatic cavity configured to ~~provide~~ apply a force on the mobile
20 structure in said transverse direction thereby adjusting a clamping force of the mobile
21 structure on the fuel assembly in response to pressure changes in the pneumatic cavity,
22 and

23 ~~an air~~ a gas inlet control device located at said distal end of said
24 compartment in the longitudinal direction and configured to provide ~~air~~ gas to said

1 pneumatic cavity to release or adjust said clamping force. ~~clamp the fuel assembly in a~~
2 ~~fixed position within the compartment.~~

1 Claim 18 (Currently amended) ~~Device~~ The container according to claim 17, in which the
2 mobile structure comprises a plane plate parallel to the fuel assembly replacing at least part of the
3 compartment wall.

1 Claim 19 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The container according to claim 17, in which the
2 clamping device comprises an elastic member ~~elements are elastic.~~

1 Claim 20 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The container according to claim 17, in which the
2 guide elements rigidly attached to the fixed structure and the mobile structure slide in each other.
3

4 Claim 21 (Currently amended) ~~Device~~ The container according to claim 17, in which the
5 fixed structure and the mobile structure are connected together by a return spring.

Claim 22-28 (withdrawn).

Claim 29 (canceled).

Claim 30 (withdrawn).

Claim 31 (canceled).

Claim 32 (canceled).

1 Claim 33 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The container according to claim 29, in which the
2 mobile structure comprises a plane plate parallel to the fuel assembly replacing at least part of the
3 compartment wall.

1 Claim 34 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The container according to claim 29, in which the
2 clamping device comprises an elastic member [[elements are elastic]].

1 Claim 35 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The container according to claim 29, in which the
2 guide elements rigidly attached to the fixed structure and the mobile structure slide in each other.

1 Claim 36 (currently amended) ~~Device~~ The container according to claim 29, in which the
2 fixed structure and the mobile structure are connected together by a return spring.

1 Claim 37 (new) A container comprising a compartment for receiving a long length nuclear
2 fuel assembly and having substantially the same length as said fuel assembly, wherein the
3 compartment has fixed walls extending in a longitudinal direction and defining an interior space
4 of the compartment having a cross-section corresponding to the cross-section of said fuel
5 assembly, said compartment also having an opening at a distal end of the compartment in said
6 longitudinal direction, wherein said compartment includes an immobilization device having:

7 a fixed structure rigidly attached to one of said fixed walls of the compartment,
8 and comprising at least one fixed guide element extending in a transverse direction
9 transverse to the longitudinal direction of the compartment;

10 a mobile structure that can be moved in the transverse direction to apply pressure
11 on the fuel assembly, the mobile structure comprising at least one transverse mobile guide
12 element slidably engaging the fixed guide element on the fixed structure,

13 an adjustable clamping device adapted to clamp the fuel assembly in a fixed
14 position within the compartment and to selectively release said fuel assembly, said
15 clamping device comprising:

16 a pneumatic cavity configured to apply a force on the mobile structure in
17 said transverse direction thereby adjusting a clamping force of the mobile structure on the
18 fuel assembly in response to pressure changes in the pneumatic cavity, and

19 a gas inlet control device located at said distal end of said compartment in

20 the longitudinal direction and configured to provide gas to said pneumatic cavity to
21 release or adjust said clamping force.

1 Claim 38 (new) The container of claim 37 comprising a plurality of said compartments.

1 Claim 39 (new) The container of claim 37 wherein said container is of the 5-20 tonne
2 class.

1 Claim 40 (new) A container for use for transporting nuclear fuel assemblies for use in
2 nuclear power stations comprising a compartment for receiving and securing during said transport
3 a long length nuclear fuel assembly and having substantially the same length as said fuel assembly,
4 wherein the compartment has fixed walls extending in a longitudinal direction, and further wherein
5 said compartment includes an immobilization device having:

6 a fixed structure rigidly attached to one of said fixed walls of the compartment,
7 and comprising at least one fixed guide element extending in a transverse direction
8 transverse to the longitudinal direction of the compartment;

9 a mobile structure that can be moved in the transverse direction to apply pressure
10 on the fuel assembly, the mobile structure comprising at least one transverse mobile guide
11 element slidably engaging the fixed guide element on the fixed structure,

12 an adjustable clamping device adapted to clamp the fuel assembly in a fixed
13 position within the compartment and to selectively release said fuel assembly, said
14 clamping device comprising:

15 a pneumatic cavity configured to apply a force on the mobile structure in
16 said transverse direction thereby adjusting a clamping force of the mobile structure on the
17 fuel assembly in response to pressure changes in the pneumatic cavity, and

18 a gas inlet control device located at said distal end of said compartment in
19 the longitudinal direction and configured to provide gas to said pneumatic cavity to
20 release or adjust said clamping force.

1 Claim 41 (new) The container of claim 40 comprising a plurality of said compartments.

1 Claim 42 (new) The container of claim 40 wherein said container is of the 5-20 tonne
2 class.

1 Claim 43 (new) The container of claim 40 wherein the fixed walls define an interior space
2 of the compartment having a cross-section corresponding to the cross-section of said fuel
3 assembly.

1 Claim 44 (new) A container for use for transporting nuclear fuel assemblies for use in
2 nuclear power stations comprising a compartment for receiving and securing a single long length
3 nuclear fuel assembly and having substantially the same length as said fuel assembly, wherein the
4 compartment has fixed walls extending in a longitudinal direction, and further wherein said
5 compartment includes an immobilization device having:

6 a fixed structure rigidly attached to one of said fixed walls of the compartment,
7 and comprising at least one fixed guide element extending in a transverse direction
8 transverse to the longitudinal direction of the compartment;

9 a mobile structure that can be moved in the transverse direction to apply pressure
10 on the fuel assembly, the mobile structure comprising at least one transverse mobile guide
11 element slidably engaging the fixed guide element on the fixed structure,

12 an adjustable clamping device adapted to clamp the fuel assembly in a fixed
13 position within the compartment and to selectively release said fuel assembly, said
14 clamping device comprising:

15 a pneumatic cavity configured to apply a force on the mobile structure in
16 said transverse direction thereby adjusting a clamping force of the mobile structure on the
17 fuel assembly in response to pressure changes in the pneumatic cavity, and

18 a gas inlet control device located at said distal end of said compartment in
19 the longitudinal direction and configured to provide gas to said pneumatic cavity to
20 release or adjust said clamping force.

1 Claim 45 (new) The container of claim 44 comprising a plurality of said compartments.

1 Claim 46 (new) The container of claim 44 wherein said container is of the 5-20 tonne
2 class.

1 Claim 47 (new) The container of claim 44 wherein the fixed walls define an interior space
2 of the compartment having a cross-section corresponding to the cross-section of said single fuel
3 assembly.

1 Claim 48 (new) A container for use for transporting nuclear fuel assemblies comprising:
2 a plurality of compartments for receiving and securing long length nuclear fuel assemblies,
3 wherein each of said compartments has substantially the same length as said fuel assembly, and
4 wherein the compartments have fixed walls extending in a longitudinal direction, and further
5 wherein said one of said compartments includes an immobilization device having:

6 a fixed structure rigidly attached to one of said fixed walls of the compartment,
7 and comprising at least one fixed guide element extending in a transverse direction
8 transverse to the longitudinal direction of the compartment;

9 a mobile structure that can be moved in the transverse direction to apply pressure
10 on the fuel assembly, the mobile structure comprising at least one transverse mobile guide
11 element slidably engaging the fixed guide element on the fixed structure,

12 an adjustable clamping device adapted to clamp the fuel assembly in a fixed
13 position within the compartment and to selectively release said fuel assembly, said
14 clamping device comprising:

15 a pneumatic cavity configured to apply a force on the mobile structure in
16 said transverse direction thereby adjusting a clamping force of the mobile structure on the
17 fuel assembly in response to pressure changes in the pneumatic cavity, and

18 a gas inlet control device located at said distal end of said compartment in
19 the longitudinal direction and configured to provide gas to said pneumatic cavity to

1 release or adjust said clamping force.

1 Claim 49 (new) The container of claim 48 wherein the fixed walls define an interior space
2 of the compartments having a cross-section corresponding to the cross-section of said fuel
3 assemblies.